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TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3225  
INFO RUEHEE/ARAB LEAGUE COLLECTIVE PRIORITY  
RUEHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY 1527  
RUEHRL/AMEMBASSY BERLIN PRIORITY 0360  
RUEHTA/AMEMBASSY ASTANA PRIORITY 0006  
RUEHUNV/USMISSION UNVIE VIENNA PRIORITY 0045

C O N F I D E N T I A L AMMAN 002262

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 07/29/2023  
TAGS: [PREL](#) [IAEA](#) [KNNP](#) [AORC](#) [SY](#) [JO](#)  
SUBJECT: IAEA BOG: JORDAN MFA BELIEVES THAT SYRIA HAS ARAB  
LEAGUE ENDORSEMENT

REF: A. AMMAN 2225  
[1](#)B. CAIRO 1606  
[1](#)C. RIYADH 1153  
[1](#)D. SECSTATE 77758

Classified By: Charge d'Affaires Daniel Rubinstein for reasons 1.4(b) and (d)

[1](#)1. (C) Jamal Al-Shamayleh, Director of Foreign Minister Bashir's private office, told PolCouns on July 29 that it appeared the Arab League had already endorsed Syria's candidacy for the MESA seat on the IAEA Board of Governors. Reading from a June 28 communique from the Jordanian Embassy in Vienna (responding to the MFA's inquiry as to the state of play (Ref A)), Shamayleh said that, according to the files of the Jordanian Ambassador, the Arab League had unanimously endorsed Syria's candidacy at a March 5, 2008, ministerial. Shamayleh did note a confusing line in the communique that suggested that Egypt might also have been endorsed by the Arab League at an earlier ministerial, on September 5, 2007.

[1](#)2. (C) Given the information provided him by Vienna, i.e. that Syria was the consensus Arab candidate (he could not clarify Egypt's status in the competition for the MESA seat), Shamayleh stressed the difficulty of Jordan's shifting support to Kazakhstan in the absence of a "face-saving" U.S. strategy. He asked that Post share with him anything the USG could uncover as to whether the Arab League had, in fact, endorsed Syria (Ref C).

[1](#)3. (C) PolCouns apprised Shamayleh of the Saudi working-level view that Syria was not qualified to hold the MESA seat (Ref C) and urged that Jordan reach out to like-minded AL members to review options.

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<http://www.state.sgov.gov/p/nea/amman>  
Rubinstein